

September 10, 2015

Dear Community Member:

Each year, liquor permit holders are required to renew their permits, and under Ohio law, the legislative authorities of a political subdivision, in this case Columbus City Council, have the right to object to the renewal of liquor permits and request a hearing based on those objections. In order for this to occur, City Council must submit a resolution specifying the reasons for the objections to the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control.

The Office of Columbus City Attorney, Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. and the Columbus Division of Police lead the investigative process that assists City Council with determining whether legally sufficient evidence exists to support an objection. Part of this process is to solicit input from community members to learn of problem liquor establishments (bars, restaurants, carry-outs, etc.) in Columbus neighborhoods.

Objections must be based on grounds set forth in Ohio Revised Code §4303.292(A)(1) and (2) outlined below:

1. The applicant has operated the liquor permit business in a manner that demonstrates a disregard for the laws, regulations, or ordinances of this state or any other state. R.C. 4303.292(A)(1)(b).
2. The place for which the permit is being sought is so located with respect to the neighborhood that substantial interference with public decency, sobriety, peace or good order would result from the renewal of the permit and operations there under by the applicant. R.C. 4303.292(A)(2)(c).

Please share this information freely, and if your area commission, civic association or neighborhood organization would like to request City Council object to the renewal of a specific liquor permit, it is imperative that you submit a letter to Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.'s office **NO LATER THAN Monday, October 5, 2015** to allow for a proper investigation of the establishment. In the letter, please state the reasons why the liquor permit premise or premises are a problem and include as much detail as possible about the problems your community has incurred as a result of the establishment. This is your opportunity to bring to our attention those liquor establishments which might be a problem in your community. In your letter, please designate a contact person within your organization so that City Attorney Pfeiffer's office can remain in contact with your organization during the process.

Please send your correspondence to: Office of Columbus City Attorney Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.  
ATTN: William A. Sperlazza, Assistant City Attorney  
375 South High Street, 7th Floor Columbus, OH 43215  
[WASperlazza@columbus.gov](mailto:WASperlazza@columbus.gov)  
(614) 645-7479

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Sperlazza or Gretchen James at 614-645-5346, or [GDJames@columbus.gov](mailto:GDJames@columbus.gov). Your assistance in this process is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Zach Klein, Columbus City Council  
Chair, Public Safety Committee  
[zmklein@columbus.gov](mailto:zmklein@columbus.gov)  
[www.columbuscitycouncil.org](http://www.columbuscitycouncil.org)



Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr.  
Columbus City Attorney  
[RCPfeiffer@columbus.gov](mailto:RCPfeiffer@columbus.gov)  
[www.columbuscityattorney.org](http://www.columbuscityattorney.org)